

11th February 2.

Sir

In order to ascertain the cause of the apparent wastage in the Minor Coinage Account, I have examined the accounts of the purchase and use of Copper for Bullion alloy and for the minor coinage, from the redelivery after the last complete settlement of the Minor Coinage account, on the 1st July 1875. up to 31 Dec. 1881.

I traced an irregularity in the accounts to the months of July and August, 1879, when the manufacture of both Gold and Silver, and of Minor Coins, was pressed at the same moment with great energy to satisfy the needs of the Government. Having no immediate funds on Bullion account to pay for Copper, 10,000 lbs. was borrowed out of the 20,000 lbs purchased for and charged to the Minor Coinage Account, and we neglected

ted to charge the Gold and Silver account with the same.

An examination of the Minor Coinage accounts from 1874 to the present time leads to a similar result, of the apparent shortage of 10,000 lbs.

It seems to me that the simplest remedy for this irregularity, without disturbing existing accounts, would be to transfer the 10,000 lbs. due to the Minor Coinage Account. The above is very respectfully submitted.

Very respectfully
J. C. Booth

M. & R.

Hon A. Loudon Snowden
Superintendent.